BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

INFORMATION BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

No. 2 (2nd. Year) JANUARY 15 1955

A Dangerous Situation has been Created

When the French Parliament ratified the Paris Agreements by a slender majority, with the support of only 45 per cent of the Members, the decision was directly contrary to the will of the nation. This has been recognised throughout the world, as much by supporters as by opponents of the Agreements. Far from ending the peoples' struggle to prevent the rearming of Germany this vote will inspire new efforts.

Already the struggle is being continued, extended, intensified. It needs to be. For the ratification by the French Lower House is another big step in the direction of atomic war.

The new situation places on the Peace Movement the responsibility of making clear to the peoples the real danger, for breaking down all barriers which hold back any groups or individuals from action.

In the early autumn the supporters of German rearmament found certain arguments which served to confuse the issue for a time. Some said the London Agreements were 'better than E.D.C.', others that they were worse but the 'best that could be got'. In any case 'West German rearmament was inevitable'. The question to decide was 'not whether to rearm Germany but how'. In the meantime 'parallel negotiations' could be carried on.

In answer the Peace Movement showed, and the majority of common people understood, the essence of the Agreements to be a reborn Wehrmacht, which could not be controlled, which could itself grow into the arbiter of Europe. And in the course of the struggle very wide circles have come to see how fateful is the choice which faces Europe.

So during November and December, above all in France, real national movements against the Agreements developed on an entirely new scale. Never before, even in the defeat of E.D.C., have the people so directly, continuously and effectively intervened against a perilous international policy. The two thirds majority in favour of October became the minority of Christmas.

Those who have committed themselves to the 'policy of strength' have been making quite exceptional efforts to bring off their plan to incorporate the German Federal Republic in the military alliance of N.A.T.O. They have clearly regarded it as one essential element in their policy.

The grave new danger is now underlined by the N.A.T.O. Council decision to base its planning on the use of nuclear weapons — the second essential element in the 'policy of strength'. Thus the commanders of a new Wehrmacht are to be equipped with weapons of mass destruction, including the hydrogen bomb — those very commanders who devastated Europe and brought disaster to the German people. It is not surprising that among the German people, threatened with the danger that for a third time they may be made the instruments of a ruthless militarism, and seeing their hopes of reunifying their country being destroyed, deep and passionate opposition is being shown.

Tension in Europe and throughout the world is being increased. Negotiations are being made much more difficult. The policies of the Paris agreements and the N.A.T.O. decisions are as far-reaching as those which led to the second world war and even more dangerous for humanity. But today there is one big difference; and it can be a decisive difference. In recent years a great movement of the peoples to bring about genuine negotiations and preserve peace has been built up.

It has become clear that the peoples have the power to reverse these policies even though certain parliaments have already ratified. As the Address to the Peoples adopted by the World Council of Peace at Stockholm on 23 November 1954 stressed, 'it is not within the power of any government, of any parliament, to settle the fate of a people against its will'.

Undoubtedly the events of the last weeks of 1954 will inspire the peoples in these opening weeks of 1955 to even greater efforts and greater unity in order to stop the rearming of Germany from being put through, to frustrate the efforts of those who base their whole policy on the use of nuclear weapons and to open the way to European security and world peace.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

- The N.A.T.O. Council decision to use atomic weapons has far-reaching consequences: Article by Dr. E. H. S. Burhop 2
- The forces of peace prepare for the World Assembly. — The German Social Democratic Party's position on the peaceful settlement of the German question 3
- The peoples speak out against German rearmament: news from Argentina, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary and Italy 4, 5, 6
- The Peace Movement in the Soviet Union. — Finnish workers of all opinions unite for peace. — Professor Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry, condemns the H-bomb 7
- The All India Peace Congress. — Japan: Appeal for the Conference of Asian Countries. — Syria and Lebanon: 'No strategic highways! We want to keep our lands!' 8
- Mexico: National Assembly of Peace Forces. — Cuban people discuss a programme for a peaceful foreign policy. — Rosario doctors publish booklet on banning of weapons of mass destruction. — The present tasks of the Chilean Peace Movement 9
- Active preparations for commemoration of cultural anniversaries in 1955..... 10
- Arab writers take a stand in defence of national cultures and of peace. — First continental exhibition of etchings and drawings for peace about to open in America 11
- N.A.T.O. Council decisions described in the British and American press. — Arguments designed to confuse the people. 12

Far-Reaching Effects of the N.A.T.O. Council's Decision to use Atomic Weapons

Grave New Dangers Face the Peoples of the World

At the very time when all-out efforts are being made to put through the rearmament of West Germany and to incorporate the German Federal Republic in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the North Atlantic Council has decided to base all its future military planning on the use of nuclear weapons and to recast its whole military organisation with this aim.

It is necessary to draw the most urgent attention to the far-reaching implications of this decision and to the grave new dangers which arise from it.

In this new development we see the logical conclusion of the whole misconceived 'policy of strength', which seeks to find security through exclusive military blocs and the pursuit of an illusory military preponderance.

The effort to foist this policy on the peoples is being supported by a new outbreak of hate propaganda, of misrepresentations and inventions, designed to divide the peoples and sow mistrust and suspicion.

Every effort is being made to put over the idea that the use of nuclear weapons is inevitable, that it must be accepted.

Every effort is being made to legalise atomic war under the cover of such terms as 'civilian control' and 'tactical use' which are designed to lull public opinion.

These serious consequences are clearly set out in the authoritative extracts from the British and American press printed on page 12 and, in order to help the Peace Movement to sound the alarm to the peoples in this grave new situation, we print on this page an article specially written for the Bulletin by Dr. E.H.S. Burhop. In addition we quote on page 12 a number of short comments on some of the arguments used in favour of the N.A.T.O. decisions.

At their December meeting in Paris the Ministers of the North Atlantic Council took decisions on the use of nuclear weapons that bode ill for the peoples of Europe and, indeed, of the entire world. They agreed that henceforth the military planning of N.A.T.O. should be based on the use of nuclear weapons.

A 'softening-up' process preparatory to this decision has been going on for some time. Carefully prepared 'indiscretions' both by Gruenther and Montgomery have accustomed the people of Western Europe to the idea of such a policy and as a result public reaction to this monstrous conception of military planning was less sharp than it should have been . . .

Of course attempts are being made to disguise the true implications of this decision, to make it seem less distasteful to popular opinion. It is said that although all the military planning of N.A.T.O. is to be based on the use of nuclear weapons, the actual decision to use these weapons remains in civilian hands. But the hollowness of this pretence is not difficult to expose. The only type of war which the N.A.T.O. forces will be trained to wage will be based on the use of atomic and thermonuclear weapons. The decision whether or not to use these weapons may have been in the hands of the political authorities at one time. But since the December meeting in Paris the political authorities have given de facto assent to their use. As things now stand, if war comes they will be in no position to change this decision.

Nor can the peoples of Europe be reassured by the plea that these plans will only be implemented in the event of aggression. With a rearmed Germany in the Western camp there are too many people associated with the Western allies who see their only future in war. The danger is all too real that the activities of these people will lead us into war and the recent N.A.T.O. Council decision ensures that such a war will be a full scale war employing all the most terrible weapons of mass destruction.

Some, including Mr. Dulles himself, have sought to calm the misgivings of the peoples of Western Europe by claiming that the new N.A.T.O. plans involved the tactical, but not the strategical use of nuclear weapons. But such distinctions are artificial and lose their meaning when dealing with weapons of such vast destructive potentialities. Thermonuclear weapons, used 'tactically' on the Elbe, may produce death and injury due to radioactive 'fall-out' on Oslo, Amsterdam, Paris and London. Over vast areas of Europe the ground will become so contaminated that life will be insupportable and over a very much wider area the grain and vegetable crops and the fish of the sea will be in danger of radioactive contamination. The 'tactical' use of nuclear weapons as planned by the Western powers in the event of war will mean death, immediate or delayed, to countless millions of European civilians.

And the aeroplanes setting out with nuclear weapons on strictly 'tactical' missions will start from airfields distributed widely over Western Europe and Great Britain. These airfields will immediately become legitimate targets for attack and, since the N.A.T.O. powers are not squeamish about the weapons they use, how can they expect that these airfields will not be attacked by the same kinds of weapons? The entire population of Western Europe will be placed in great jeopardy once N.A.T.O. initiates the use of these weapons. There is no real way of restricting them to tactical uses against armies in the field.

The decisions of the December meeting of the N.A.T.O. Council will make agreement on disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons much harder to achieve. When operational planning, army structure, and even troop deployment are based round the use of nuclear weapons the resistance to their abolition on the part of the military planners in N.A.T.O. is certain to be enormously more powerful. It is tragic that this decision should come just at the time when the possibility of agreement on these issues seemed closer than at any time since the end of the war, following the unanimous vote in the United Nations Assembly calling on the great powers to discuss further the problems of disarmament and the control of atomic weapons on an agreed basis.

And let it not be forgotten that these decisions, taken together with the steps being taken to rearm Western Germany and to bring her into N.A.T.O., will ensure that nuclear weapons will be placed at the disposal of the former Nazi generals, many of whom still thirst for a war of revenge.

But all this need not be. The peoples of Western Europe can even now defeat the genocidal strategy of the N.A.T.O. powers and can force agreement on disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons. It is the great task of the Peace Movement to-day to make the people aware of the implications of the Paris decisions and to organise a decisive struggle against their implementation.

Dr. E.H.S. Burhop,
University Reader in Physics, London

Atomic Weapons already available in Europe for N.A.T.O. Forces

In an article in *The New York Times* of 19 November, 1954 headed 'N.A.T.O. has cast the die for Atomic Defence', Hanson W. Baldwin describes atomic weapons already available in addition to 'thermo-nuclear bombs of million-ton T.N.T. explosive power'. He says:

'Atomic weapons of lesser power ranging down to 12 or 14 Kilotons (thousand tons of T.N.T.) have been ready in and around Europe for quite a long time. U.S. Navy aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic have small "special weapons" (atomic) magazines and the aircraft . . . to carry them.'

'On land the Forty Ninth U.S. Air Division, based in England and flying F. 84 Republic Thunderjets and B. 45 light bombers, has long been charged with the atomic support of N.A.T.O.'s ground forces.'

He then lists the following as available in Europe:

Five six-gun battalions of 280 mm 'atomic cannon' — range 30 km.

Several battalions of 762 mm free flight artillery rockets — range 30 km.

The 'Corporal' guided missile with supersonic speed — range 160 km.

Two squadrons Air Force guided missiles or pilotless planes — range 800 km.

The Peace Forces are Preparing for the World Assembly

• To Represent Millions

In an appeal to local organisations to start preparing at once for the World Assembly for Peace, published in the British Peace Committee *Newsletter*, Mr. William Wainwright, Member of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace and Secretary of the British Peace Committee, writes:

'A large and representative contingent from this country, bringing the views and experiences of every section of British life, will be indispensable for the success of this Assembly.

'That is because in the affairs of states this country occupies a key position, from which it has the power to influence the course of events in the direction of stable and lasting peace.

'What can be done to help the world along this path? How should the Governments behave towards each other? Are the principles agreed between Prime Ministers Nehru and Chou En-lai a standard which others can adopt with benefit? What are the chief stumbling blocks to peace, and how can they be overcome?

'These are only some of the points on which nationwide discussion should take place in preparation for the World Assembly. In this way those who are elected to go can take with them the views not of thousands but of millions.'

• Meetings and Conferences at every Level

A German Congress for security and peace will be held in Leipzig next April in preparation for the World Assembly in May.

The Congress will elect the German Peace Council, its President and General Secretary, and also the delegates to the World Assembly.

The election of delegates to this Congress will take place at district peace conferences which will be held throughout Germany during February and March and the delegates to these conferences, in turn, will be elected at public meetings and evening gatherings for an exchange of views.

This form of preparation should result not only in the democratic election of delegates but also in effective mass explanations in preparation for the World Assembly in both parts of Germany.

As part of the same campaign there will be conferences and congresses for various professional groups and various interests. Thus, for example, a conference of Protestant and Catholic churchmen from both parts of Germany has already taken place in Leipzig. The following are planned: conferences for engineers, technicians and other technical staff; a doctors' conference; and conferences for educationalists, public discussion evenings for young people and conferences for trade unionists.

• Statements by Public Figures

I consider that the London-Paris Agreements embody the suicidal policy of armed Peace, of rigid and dangerously poised hostile blocs; it is a policy of crude, swashbuckling braggadoccio, the megalomania of small people in whose hands are weapons of such frightful, devastating powers that the whole of civilization is threatened. In brief, such policies can only mean death and destruction ...

Why do not we, all lovers of Peace, resolve now that 1955 must be made the Year of Peace? Wherever we live, whatever our vocations, yes, and whatever be our political affiliations, let us raise our voices, let us agitate and organise persistently so that when the World Assembly of Peace meets next May a force of Peace will have been so developed that the inciters to wars will have been silenced, and reason, goodwill and friendship prevail among the peoples of the world.

Mr. S. O. Davies
M. P. for Merthyr Tydfil

We defenders of peace in the Lebanon and in the whole Arab world look forward with great pleasure and hope to the World Assembly of Peace which is going to take place in the near future. We are ready to send a good number of delegates to it.

This World Assembly will certainly have a great effect on world peace and will help the Movement in our part of the world, which only peace can deliver from the plans of the imperialists.

Dr. George Hanna, Writer (Lebanon)

Each of the previous world peace congresses marked a stage in the extension of the world movement for the defence of peace.

The World Assembly of Representatives of All the Forces of Peace in the first half of 1955 will be a great step forward for the movement. It will sum up the victories that have been won for peace and the activities of the movement during the past two years. It will bring together new forces for peace and will rally the peoples of the world in this new stage of the struggle against the intrigues of those who want to see frightful bloodbaths, above all United States imperialism.

The defenders of peace in Viet Nam welcome and warmly support the World Assembly of Representatives of All the Forces of Peace in 1955.

Mr. Le Dinh Tham, Chairman of the Peace Committee of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

German Social Democratic Party's Position

on Peaceful Settlement of German Question

After a joint conference the leading bodies of the German Social Democratic Party — the Presiding Committee, the Executive Committee and the Party's Control Commission — issued the following appeal addressed to all Socialists throughout the world:

'The German Social Democratic Party unreservedly supports a policy of lessening international contradictions and the peaceful settlement of all questions in dispute. It warns against the deadly temptation to ratify the Paris agreements, thus creating a military situation which would shut the door for a long time to agreement between the four occupying powers on the peaceful restoration of German unity. This military situation would create the danger of a further aggravation of the international contradictions.

'The German Social Democratic Party asks the German Federal Parliament and the Government of the German Democratic Republic to make every effort to prevent the division of Germany from becoming irrevocable. Every possibility of bringing influence to bear for the opening of four power negotiations for the peaceful reunification of Germany must be exploited.

'The German Social Democratic Party addresses all democratic forces in the world and particularly the Parties in the Socialist International. It urgently calls on them to use all their influence to get the Western occupation powers to decide on the resumption of four power negotiations for the reunification of Germany and to start preparing for them immediately through diplomatic channels.'

The Presiding Committee of the German Social Democratic Party

FRANCE: *'Prevent Ratification in the Council of the Republic!'*

A NEW STAGE IN THE STRUGGLE

The editorial of this issue analyses the situation created by the vote in favour of the London and Paris Agreements in the French National Assembly.

The following article — specially written for the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace by the Press Service of the French Peace Movement — shows the genuinely national movement of opposition which arose and how the French people followed the parliamentary debates with extreme vigilance, giving even more forceful expression to their unyielding opposition to any form of German rearmament than at the time of the struggle against E.D.C. This opposition is already being expressed in other forms now that the vote has been taken.

As soon as the debate opened in the National Assembly the French people's action against German rearmament reached a scale and power that were greater than ever before. If, in the end, the London and Paris Agreements were ratified by a majority of 27, 287 for and 260 against, whereas there are 627 Deputies in the National Assembly, the French people's hostility was expressed in the first vote taken on Friday, December 24, when the first article of the ratification bill was rejected on the first reading by 280 votes to 259.

From Monday, December 20 onwards, thousands of men and women of all political views, who had come from every Department in France, flocked round the doors of the National Assembly. There were more than 1000 deputations on that day alone. In spite of the refusal of the Parliamentary groups to see them—with the exception of the Progressive and Communist Deputies — the deputations literally besieged the public waiting-room whence they sent hundreds and hundreds of requests for interviews to the Deputies in the Chamber. Letters and telegrams by the thousand piled up on the Deputies' desks.

PROTEST GERMAN ARMS: Hostile to German rearmament, these Parisians display signs outside the French National Assembly during yesterday's debate. Sign says "Remember Auschwitz."

Protest German Arms

With this caption the December 28, 1954 issue of the New York Times published on its front page the above photo of a popular demonstration in Paris against the London and Paris Agreements.

The New York Times does not usually support the peaceful settlement of the German problem, which makes it all the more interesting to see the scope of the protest movement in France against German rearmament recognised in this way.

The sheer strength of this protest forced a number of Deputies to meet their constituents in the days that followed.

On December 24, 21 Socialist Deputies voted in accordance with the will of their constituents. After having declared their intention to vote for the agreements, a number of Radicals and Moderates abstained or voted against, explaining that their eyes had been opened by the pressure and vigilance of their constituents.

From Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 there wasn't a break in the unending queue of deputations. The signatures collected on the Appeal to Elected Representatives issued by the National Council of the French Peace Movement piled up on the Speaker's table in their hundreds of thousands.

The deputations from the factories and building sites, which in most cases had been unanimously elected at meetings of the personnel, were frequently supported in their mission by stoppages of work.

As soon as the debate resumed on Monday 27 the Deputies found themselves once more faced with the unshakable national will. The deputations were even bigger than on the previous days and many of them came from the provinces. Although it finally gave way to foreign pressure, the National Assembly could not ignore the reprobation of the whole country. Only one speaker dared to put up a real defence of the agreements; all the supporters of German rearmament found themselves obliged to speak of a 'vote of submission' or a 'vote to satisfy Atlantic opinion'.

On December 28 Parisians in their tens of thousands crowded into the Vélodrome d'Hiver at the call of the Peace Movement and showed their determination to make a huge effort to bar the road to the Wehrmacht in the few hours that remained before the last vote. Speakers of all points of view expressed their fears and their determination to prevent the implementation of the agreements if they should be ratified.

The meeting was chaired by Pastor Bosc, Mr. Gustave Monod and Mr. Jacques Baugé, President of the Society of Disabled and Blinded Resistance Fighters, a former member of the Free French Forces who lost his sight and his two hands in the war. The speakers were Mr. Bernard Laffaille, professor at the Paris Central School; Mr. Roland Etienne, Vice-President of the Vosges Federation of the M.R.P.; Mrs. Huisman, of the Women's Committee against German Militarism; Mr. Deville, Vice-President of the Meurthe-et-Moselle Federation of the Radical-Socialist Party; Mr. Alain le Léap, General Secretary of the C.G.T.; Mr. Martial Bellugue, member of the Socialist General Council of the Department of Dordogne; Mr. Jacques Chatagner, director of *La Quinzaine;* Mr. Claude Bourdet, director of *France-Observateur;* Mr. Raymond Guyot, Deputy for Paris, member of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party; Mr. Etienne Nouveau, an active worker in ex-servicemen's associations; Mr. Gilbert de Chambrun, Progressive Deputy, Secretary of the World Council of Peace.

Many messages were received including those sent by President Paul-Boncour, Mr. Pierre Lebon, Gaullist Deputy for the Department of Deux-Sevres; Mr. Léo Hamon, Catholic Senator for the Seine Department; Mr. Maurice Lacroix, President of the Young Republic; Professor Bernard Lavergne, of the Law Faculty of Paris University.

On January 2 the French Peace Movement issued a statement saluting the great movement of national unity forged in the struggle against the London and Paris agreements. This movement 'showed foreign governments and the French Government the nation's unreserved hostility to German rearmament'.

The statement continues:

'The Council of the Republic must be prevented from ratifying the treaties, thus making it necessary for the National Assembly to re-examine them.

'The movement must grow throughout the country. The efforts of all must be brought to bear; the Deputies who voted for the agreements must be made to know the national protest; signatures, appeals and petitions must pour in. But the people should direct their efforts above all to the Municipal and General Councillors, so that they may express the national will to the Senators whom they elect.

'Whatever bills Parliament may pass, Frenchmen will never accept the revival of German militarism and the prospect of an atomic and thermonuclear war . . .'

*

GERMANY *Must and Will Become a Country of Peace*

Approximately 900 people from three districts of the German Democratic Republic recently met in Rostock to hear a report on the Stockholm session of the World Council of Peace. In a statement they declared:

'We shall support the Peace Movement in West Germany with all our strength and shall see to it that the Federal Republic's statesmen are reminded even more insistently than heretofore of their responsibility for the maintenance of peace . . .

'Germans must and will become a country of peace. We shall strive towards this end with all our strength . . .'

*

At the end of December a large number of Bremen youth organisations demonstrated their opposition to remilitarisation and the projected conscription of 500,000 young men in West Germany by a torchlight procession through the streets of the city.

They included groups of young people from the German Social Democratic Party, young trade unionists, members of the 'Falcons' and of the Protestant youth. They bore many banners calling for struggle against the London and Paris Agreements.

*

The Presiding Committee of the German Socialist Student's Union (Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund) has condemned the London and Paris Agreements as aggravating the division of Germany and international tension without giving any guarantee for the security of the Federal Republic.

GREAT BRITAIN

As the next national rallying point in the campaign to stop the rearming of Germany the British Peace Committee has issued an appeal for delegations from every part of the country to 'lobby' M.P.s on 25 January, the day Parliament resumes its sittings after the Christmas recess. This is the first time for several years that a national demonstration to Members of Parliament has been organised on this scale. The Peace Movement has called not only on peace organisations but on trade unions, co-operative organisations, churches, women's and youth movements in all localities to support this National Lobby.

An example of what is being done on a regional scale to widen and strengthen the campaign is the call by the Manchester and District Peace Committee for a regional conference to take place in February. This conference is already supported by organisations representing over 80,000 members, including the district committees of the railwaymen and of the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions.

The appeal for this conference, which is to be addressed by Mr. John Burns, president of the Fire Brigades Union, and Councillor Edward Dixon of Coventry, says:

'If the present policies towards Germany continue the division of Europe into two armed camps will be completed and world peace will be at the mercy of the German militarists.'

A similar conference is being held on 16 January in Liverpool addressed by Mr. Gordon Schaffer, Chairman of the British Peace Committee, and by Dr. E.H.S. Burhop.

ITALY

Throughout Italy a great protest campaign against the London and Paris Agreements is being carried on.

The National Partisans' Association has called on all former partisans to actively oppose West German rearmament.

Former partisans and the families of partisans in Bologna sent to the President of the Chamber of Deputies and to the President of the Senate an appeal demanding that international issues be settled by peaceful means, without any discrimination and in an atmosphere of eased tension and friendly co-existence between States.

In Rome, the Borough Peace Committees held many meetings on December 22.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies' vote in favour of the London and Paris Agreements aroused the anger of wide sections of the Italian people who showed that they are resolutely hostile to German rearmament in any form.

In Torre Annunziata in the province of Naples a petition against the rearmament of West Germany and for the establishment of a system of collective security for the whole of Europe is being circulated. Similar petitions have been signed by the workers of five Bologna factories and by municipal and provincial employees. The Town Council of Villamarzano in the province of Rovigo, which is composed of Socialists, Social Democrats, Communists, Christian Democrats and Liberals, has unanimously condemned German rearmament.

In the province of Ravenna the members of the Peace Movement are collecting documents on the crimes committed by the occupation troops during the Second World War. They will be sent to the Senators for the area during the Senate debate on the London and Paris Agreements.

The Will of the Czechoslovak People

A wave of popular protest, including all sections of the people, is arising in Czechoslovakia against the London and Paris Agreements. Its principal feature is a great mass action. In the towns and in the smallest hamlets meetings attended by great numbers of the inhabitants have been held. Millions and millions of Czechoslovak citizens are seeking to establish direct contact with the people of France, West Germany and other Western countries by means of letters and messages calling on them to refuse to allow the implementation of the agreements for German rearmament.

Engineering workers in Kladno approve the text of a letter to their opposite numbers in France and the German Federal Republic.

Workers . . .

The engineering workers of Vitkovice have sent a message to the workers of the 'Vereinigte Stahlwerke A.G.' of Düsseldorf. The workers of the electrical engineering factory in Pilsen sent an appeal to the workers of Essen, Dortmund and Wuppertal; those of the factory of Ruzomberok sent a letter to their opposite numbers in Hamburg; and the citizens of Karlovy Vary also sent a letter to the people of Wiesbaden. The workers of Paris, Marseilles, Nancy, Bayonne, Boulogne and a number of other towns have received messages from Czechoslovak workers.

Here are some extracts from a message sent by the personnel of the Varnsdorf factories in Czechoslovakia to the workers of the Toulouse Arsenal in France:

'To the trade unionists, workers, apprentices and technicians of the arsenal.

'Honest people in Europe have not forgotten the horrors of German fascism. They have not forgotten either Lidice or Oradour. Yet we wish to live in friendship with the German people as with the French people, for this friendship is the guarantee of a lasting peace.

'Dear friends, we call on you to build the active unity of all the workers of your factory and town. It is an invincible force which must be set going to achieve a European conference for collective security, the reunification of a democratic Germany and world peace. Long live world peace!'

University Men . . .

The famous Charles University in Prague, one of the oldest in Europe, has sent a moving appeal to the universities of West Germany. It says:

'The war, which wiped out the best sons and daughters of our people in the concentration camps, struck the German people a terrible blow, destroyed their wealth and their rare historic monuments, dear to all mankind. We are convinced that from now on German scientists and young German intellectuals will be vigilant and will not accept the remilitarisation of Western Germany which would render impossible the reunification of your people in a united, democratic and peaceful state . . .'

Churchmen . . .

The Bishops and other dignitaries of the Catholic Church of Czechoslovakia have sent an appeal to all Catholics in Western Europe and to the Secretariat of the Holy See. It asks that negotiations between East and West be set going and that, conscious of their responsibility to God and History, Catholics should strive to find a solution which would make impossible the restoration of the terrible German militarism.

From Budapest...

At the beginning of the month of December the Hungarian Peace Council launched a great protest campaign against the revival of German militarism.

On December 9 a big meeting, at which more than 3,000 people were present, was held in the Palace of Sport in Budapest. A report on the work of the Stockholm session of the World Council of Peace was given by Professor Erzsebet Andics, winner of the Kossuth Prize, President of the Hungarian Peace Council, and the Very Reverend Janos Peter, Protestant Bishop, both members of the World Council of Peace; and by Professor M. A. Földvari of Debrecen University.

Mr. Oscar Fischer, German Secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, was the next speaker and he opposed German rearmament.

All the speakers, with the approbation of the whole hall, protested at the remilitarisation of West Germany. They also expressed their admiration for Germans who are fighting for a democratic and peaceful Germany, and, in their honour, the demonstration ended with a performance of the Egmont Overture, one of Beethoven's masterpieces.

From the meeting a joint appeal to the people was made by the Patriotic Popular Front and the Hungarian Peace Council.

Furthermore, on December 9 the Lutheran congregation of Vesces held a general meeting to commemorate the destruction of their church and presbytery by the S.S. ten years before. A religious service was held and a telegram was sent to the World Council of Peace. It says:

'We draw attention to the nefarious attempts being made to rearm West Germany and to prepare for another war which would result in much greater suffering than what we have already seen. We protest at these attempts...

'We pray God to bring the peoples to a better understanding of each other... May he support the efforts of men of goodwill the world over so that a lasting peace may be won.'

ARGENTINA

Sends 500 Messages to French National Assembly

In a telegram to the French National Assembly the Argentine Peace Council asked that German rearmament should not be ratified. The French Parliament also received similar messages from the local Peace Committees of a number of towns and districts and from various popular groupings. The approximate total of messages and telegrams sent was 500. Mrs. Maria Rosa Oliver, the writer, made an appeal to the French people on this subject. It was broadcast and widely reported in the press. The Jewish Peace Committee has the support of the Jewish community in the active campaign it is conducting against German rearmament.

...to TORONTO

The Canadian Peace Congress has asked the House of Commons' Standing Committee on External Affairs for public hearings on the German army plan.

It is asking the support of all party leaders and of a number of leading parliamentarians, including the Minister for External Affairs, for this request.

On his return from the Stockholm session of the World Council of Peace Dr. James Endicott, President of the Canadian Peace Congress, prepared a statement for the press from which we give some extracts:

'Actually our organisation and our fraternal relationships do not yet reflect the fact of such wide acceptance of our proposals and beliefs. The World Assembly will unify and strengthen the forces for peace. It will demonstrate to the people of the whole world that peace is in their hands and that their hands are strong enough to build that peace into an enduring reality...

'But even as the first preparations for the Assembly get under way there is an item of pressing business which we would leave unsettled at our peril. The first item on the agenda of the Stockholm meeting was the supremely urgent question of German remilitarisation and the security of Europe.

'At this meeting the German delegation (from East and West) came as one delegation and refused to be listed as East or West. They were a German delegation for peace...

'The German people are our friends and the friends of peace. If we Canadians want to be their friends, and we do seek a reconciliation here, we must help them to defeat the rearming of the Nazis.'

Mass Rally

'Before Parliament decides how to handle the German army plan it will hear the voice of Toronto citizens' majority opposition to the plan', announced Mr. Bruce Mickleburgh on behalf of the Toronto Peace Council, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the United Jewish People's Order. To this end a mass rally was held in the Massey Hall at the beginning of this month.

Mr. Mickleburgh stated that a telephone survey of majority opinion already in progress showed a decisive majority of the Toronto public want no part of this plan to revive the German General Staff.

'People in this city see this plan as a major threat to the security of our country', said Mr. Mickleburgh. 'There is no block in this city without its victims of German militarism.'

Ballots and Referendum in DENMARK

Two months ago a group of soldiers wearing Hitler's uniform stamped across the Town Hall Square in Copenhagen. 'Have they come back again?', asked the amazed passers-by. Leaflets told them that it was a demonstration organised by Danish young people who had put on the Wehrmacht uniform to recall the terrible days of the occupation.

The demonstration gave only a glimpse of the vast movement against the remilitarisation of West Germany that is developing among all sections of the Danish people.

At trade union meetings and at places of work ballots on the question of the remilitarisation of West Germany are being organised, letters are being sent to the Government and Parliament by the entire personnel of certain factories, deputations are going to Parliament, leaflets are being distributed and posters put up at work places.

Strong protests against the remilitarisation of West Germany have been made by workers in the Carlsberg mineral water factory, by engineers' trade union branches in the capital, by almost all the workers of the printing press of the big daily paper, *Berlingske Tidende*, by 104 workers of the paper, *Dagens Nyheder*, by a general meeting of the unskilled workers of Kolding and Holbaek, by an engineers' trade union branch in Helsingör, and others.

At a general meeting the labourers of Nöresunbdy adopted a resolution to be sent to Parliament. It suggests in particular that the Danish people should be called upon to give their opinion of German rearmament by means of a referendum.

In a recent public statement which forcefully condemns German rearmament 28 well-known intellectuals also demand a referendum.

The many popular ballots which are being held throughout the country show what the result of such a national referendum would be.

For example, a plebiscite was organised in Copenhagen a few weeks ago. Urns were set up in the streets, especially at places where Danish citizens fell under Nazi bullets during the war. The urns were also taken round from house to house. The ballot was secret and democratically controlled and it resulted in an overwhelming majority against German remilitarisation in any form.

Finnish Workers of all Opinions Unite for Peace

More than 1,200 delegates from national and local trade union bodies, from building sites, from workers' religious organisations and from the various political trends and groupings of the labour movement in Finland took part in a National Workers' Conference which was held in Helsinki in December.

Three reports were presented to the Conference. The first, given by Mr. Aarne Saarinen, President of the National Union of Building Workers, underlined the decisive importance of the struggle against the London and Paris Agreements and German rearmament.

The second report was presented by Mr. Into Kallio, a working-class writer, who dealt with the Social Democratic workers' activity for peace and stressed the need for close collaboration between all sections of the labour movement in order to make the joint struggle for a peaceful world more effective.

Mr. Juhani Moilanen, Vice-President of the National Union of Christian Workers, gave the third report in which he spoke of work for peace from the point of view of Christians.

A very wide-ranging discussion was then entered into by the representatives of the various sections of the labour movement and a resolution condemning German rearmament was unanimously adopted.

'We send our fraternal greetings to the French and German workers who are courageously fighting in the front line of the struggle', says the resolution, which ends with the following appeal:

'We ask the Social Democrats, the Communists, the Popular Democrats, the Christians and other sections of the labour movement, together with working-class newspapers, to increase their efforts and make work for peace in the labour movement even more effective. It is undoubtedly in the common interest of all groupings of workers and of all sections of the labour movement to maintain peace. We must therefore work together for peace.'

Hundreds of meetings had been held and postcards had been sent to the International Committee for the Peaceful Settlement of the German Problem in preparation for the conference which marks an important step forward in improving working-class co-operation in the common struggle against German rearmament and for peace.

The conference also sent a letter to the President of the French National Assembly.

*

The Peace Movement in the Soviet Union

In response to requests by our readers, who would like information on the development and activity of the Peace Movement in the Soviet Union, we are publishing in this issue the first of a series of articles giving a brief history of the Soviet Peace Movement and a summary of its present work.

I

The Soviet Peace Movement is an integral part of the World Peace Movement and, like the latter, has been in existence for five years.

The First Conference of the Soviet Peace Movement was held in Moscow in August 1949. It was attended by more than 1,200 delegates representing all the peoples and every section of the population of the Soviet Union and by delegations from 14 foreign countries.

This conference elected the Soviet Peace Committee whose Chairman is the poet Nikolai Tikhonov. It is composed of 122 members, a number of whom are widely known throughout the world. These include the writers Alexander Fadeyev and Ilya Ehrenburg, the composer Dimitri Shostakovich, the scientists Alexander Nesmeyanov, Trofim Lysenko and Evgeni Tarlé, the Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitzky and Kolomna, and the film director Sergei Gerassimov.

The Soviet Peace Committee organised the signature-collecting campaign for the Stockholm Appeal in the Soviet Union and 115,514,703 Soviet citizens signed this historic document.

In accordance with one of the decisions of the Second World Peace Congress the Soviet Peace Committee presented to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. a draft law for the protection of peace which was adopted in March 1951.
Our photograph shows Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov, Chairman of the Committee, introducing the bill in the Supreme Soviet.

The Second Conference of the Soviet Peace Movement was held in October 1950; it elected and mandated the Soviet delegates to the Second World Peace Congress.

In 1951, in accordance with a decision of the World Council of Peace, the Soviet Peace Committee tabled in the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. the request that a law for the protection of peace be adopted. This law was passed.

A signature-collecting campaign for the World Council of Peace's Appeal for a Peace Pact between the Five Great Powers was organised in the Soviet Union by the Soviet Peace Committee and 117,669,320 Soviet citizens signed the Appeal.

The Third Conference of the Soviet Peace Movement was held in November 1951 and issued an appeal asking all supporters of the World Peace Movement to bring new sections of the peoples into active struggle against the war danger.

The Fourth Conference of the Soviet Peace Movement took place in December 1952, bringing together 1,107 delegates which included 212 workers, 145 collective farmers, 115 scientists, 183 writers and artists. It mandated the Soviet delegates to the Congress of the Peoples for Peace and, in particular, gave them the duty of proclaiming 'the Soviet people's firm determination to defend the cause of peace and their eagerness to collaborate with all who sincerely want to avoid war, consolidate peace between the peoples and extend economic and cultural relations between the nations'.

The Peace Movement in the Soviet Union has played an active part in all the campaigns launched by the World Council of Peace. The Soviet Peace Committee has commemorated the great cultural anniversaries, including those of Victor Hugo, Gogol, Avicenna, Leonardo da Vinci, Copernicus, Dvorak, Chekhov, Fielding, Aristophanes and other illustrious representatives of world culture.

(To be continued)

*

Professor Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize Winner, Condemns the H-Bomb

At a ceremony in honour of the Nobel Prize Winners for 1954, in the Blue Room of Stockholm Town Hall, Professor Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry, made a speech to students in which he said:

'You will have great problems to solve and the greatest of these is that of war or peace. I think that this problem has been solved by the hydrogen bomb: there will never be another world war. The certainty that a world war would mean the destruction of the entire world and perhaps the end of civilisation will doubtless lead to a lasting peace. But it is incumbent on your generation to find the means of averting the catastrophe by improving the technique of international negotiations and creating measures of protection against insensate demagogues who are capable of pushing the nations to madness. It is up to you to accomplish this great work and I am convinced that you are capable of it.'

(Translated from the French)

*

On the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Iceland's gaining her independence the Students' Council of the University of Iceland issued a statement in which it says:

'Today, the people of Iceland are once again obliged to defend their independence because the stationing of American troops in Iceland is a growing danger to our country.

'We strenuously protest at the stationing of U.S. troops in Iceland and demand that the occupation statute of 1951 be immediately annulled.'

ALL INDIA CONGRESS

for Peace and Asian Solidarity

The All India Congress for Peace and Asian Solidarity, which was held in Madras from December 30 to January 2, approved the World Council of Peace's proposal to call a World Assembly of Representatives of the Forces of Peace in May.

The Congress was attended by a thousand delegates including such eminent Indian public figures as Major General Sokhey, Pandit Sunderlal, Professor Kosambi, Mr. Chakkarai Chettiar, leader of the All India T.U.C., together with members of parliament and others.

Many foreign guests took part in the Congress, notably Professor J. D. Bernal F.R.S. of Great Britain, Vice-President of the World Council of Peace; Mrs. Andrea Andreen of Sweden and Mrs. Jessie Street of Australia, both members of the World Council of Peace; and Mr. Basil da Silva of Ceylon. Dr. Kuo Mo-jo, on behalf of the Chinese People's Committee for the Defence of World Peace, and the Peace Committee of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam sent messages of greetings.

Greeting the Congress, Mr. Jean Laffitte, General Secretary of the World Council of Peace, declared that it was the duty of all Indian friends of peace to oppose aggressive plans in Asia.

In one resolution the Congress states its agreement with the Five Principles of the joint declaration of Premiers Nehru and Chou En-lai and calls on the peoples of Asia and Africa to extend and consolidate the zone of peace and to struggle for collective security based on these principles. A special resolution condemns the S.E.A.T.O. Pact. In another resolution the Congress unanimously condemns the military alliance concluded between the United States and Chiang Kai-shek. This same resolution demands that the American forces be withdrawn from Formosa and the neighbouring waters.

SYRIA and LEBANON: *'No strategic highways! We want to keep our lands!'*

The United States plan to construct a military highway linking up all the countries of the Middle East is meeting with strong opposition from the peoples of this region.

The project was condemned in the Syrian Parliament 'as being a strategic highway *aimed at linking the Arab countries and facilitating the transportation of troops and strategic materials*'. The position of Parliament and popular protests have led the Syrian Government to reject the plan officially.

Here, on the other hand, are some extracts from a manifesto issued by the Bureau of the Lebanese Peace Committee:

'This highway would cover great areas of very fertile arable land, deprive the Lebanese people of agricultural products, wipe out the source of revenue of thousands of Lebanese families and swallow up millions of pounds which are desperately needed for construction and production plans. These latter include roads in the agricultural areas, schools, hospitals, irrigation canals and industrial enterprises. In essence — and this can be seen by looking at the plan — this highway is a military project in preparation for war.

'The authors of this plan do not hide their long-range objective. They intend that the road shall reach as far as Turkey in the North and the Persian Gulf in the South. Clearly, therefore, the highway is a new form of the imperialist plans to turn the Lebanon into a military base and to incorporate it, together with the other Arab countries, into United States and British aggressive plans in the Middle East . . .

'The Lebanese Peace Committee calls on Lebanese people of all tendencies and views, all patriots and national organisations and parties, to be vigilant and to realise the dangers and the harmful nature of this plan . . .'

The Broadening of the Peace Movement in Syria and the Struggle against Military Pacts

The following three points were discussed at a recent meeting of the Syrian Peace Committee in Damascus:

1. The political situation in Syria and the other Arab countries and the international situation.
2. The organisation of the Peace Movement in Syria.
3. The election of a Bureau and a Secretary of the Syrian Peace Movement.

Speaking on the first point, Mr. Mustapha Amin said:

'The Syrian Peace Movement now includes people of various tendencies . . . for the simple reason that it clearly expresses the people's desire for peace and the common determination to put a stop to plans and preparations for war.'

Referring to Iran and North Africa, Mr. Amin expressed the Syrian Peace Movement's complete solidarity with the peoples of these countries in their struggle for national independence and peace.

Mr. Amin ended by pointing out that the Syrian Peace Movement 'bears a heavy responsibility, that of working effectively to keep Syria out of military pacts and of helping to unite the Syrian people with the other Arab peoples struggling against these pacts.'

The second point was dealt with by Mr. Yussef Feisal who called on the local and regional committees to broaden the Movement even more.

The meeting was attended by public figures new to the Movement, such as Dr. Nazim Musshi, Professor in the University of Syria, and Mr. Munir Suleiman, writer.

In Australia, the New South Wales Peace Council has published a pamphlet containing arguments taken from the best sources in support of its campaign against weapons of mass destruction. It contains a map of the Sydney district showing the various zones of destruction that would be caused by an H-bomb dropped on the city. The pamphlet is dedicated to the miners of New South Wales, to the sailors of a number of Australian ships and to the dockers of Port Kembla who helped in its publication by their constant, active support of the New South Wales Peace Council.

JAPAN: *Appeal for the Conference of Asian Countries*

In an appeal, prominent public figures and representatives of important organisations have supported the Conference of Asian Countries which will be held in New Delhi at the end of February or the beginning of March. The appeal says:

'We heartily welcome the holding of the Conference of Asian Countries which will contribute towards mutual understanding between the nations of Asia and towards the lessening of international tension. We hope that millions of Japanese will support it and contribute to its success by discussing it and making proposals on the problems common to the Asian countries.'

The signatories of the appeal were the following:

Mr. Tanzan Ishibashi M.P., Minister of International Trade and Industry, member of the governing Democratic Party.

Mr. Tetsu Katayama M.P., Former Prime Minister, member of the Right-wing Socialist Party.

Mr. Jiichiro Matsumoto, member of the House of Councillors, member of the Left-Wing Socialist Party.

Mr. Tsunejiro Hiratsuka, President of the Fishing Industry Association.

Mr. Tokutaro Kitamura, President of the Shinwa Bank, former Minister of Finance; former Minister of International Trade and Industry.

Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, President of the Japanese Y.W.C.A.

Professor Ikuo Oyama, President of the Japanese Peace Committee, member of the House of Councillors.

Mr. Keijyun Otani, high dignitary of the Shinsyu Sect of Buddhism (this is the largest Buddhist sect), member of the House of Councillors.

Mr. Saburo Endoo, former Lieutenant General in the Army.

Mr. Akira Kazami M.P., (Independent) High Commissioner of the National Council to restore normal relations with China and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Minoru Takano, General Secretary of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (membership over three millions).

Mr. Kaname Shibaya, President of the National Railway Workers' Union (membership 400,000).

Mr. Kaoro Yasui, General Secretary of the National Council against A and H bombs.

29,000,000 Signatures

The National Council of Signature-collecting Movements against the Atomic and Hydrogen bombs has issued the following communique: '20,069,000 signatures demanding the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen bombs have been collected by the National Council. In the Suginami district of Tokyo, and in Zushi and Ishinomaki, over 70 per cent of the population have signed.'

The 20,069,000 signatures mentioned in this communique are those that have been checked by the National Council. The number actually collected but not yet all checked by the National Council is 29,000,000.

The National Council plans to hold a National Congress for the prohibition of A and H bombs on January 16 and appeals to the people to support it and elect delegates. One of the important items on the agenda of this Congress is the proposal to hold an International Meeting against A and H bombs in Hiroshima on August 6 next, which will be the tenth anniversary of the dropping of tne first atomic bomb.

MEXICO: *National Assembly of Peace Forces*

The Mexican Council for Peace and Security has just issued an appeal to the peace forces in Mexico asking them to take part in a great national assembly for peace and security which will be held in mid-February.

In the introduction to the appeal the Mexican Council underlines the dangers to the people of Mexico involved in foreign interference in the country's economic and cultural life. In conclusion, the Council states:

'Security and peace — the watchwords of the peoples and of the World Council of Peace, — are inextricably bound up with the preservation of national independence and sovereignty.'

A second message has been drawn up to be distributed in the form of an appeal to the Mexican people for their approval. After showing the disastrous consequences of international tension for Mexico and the enormous dangers it would undergo should a third world war break out, the Appeal points out:

'For all these reasons it is not only necessary but urgent to bring together in a National Assembly all those forces which, freely and without undertaking any commitments, have a sincere, honest and courageous desire to build peace; all who believe that peaceful co-existence between men is in their own hands; all who prefer a calm decision to armed conflict and a pact of friendship to invasion; and, lastly, all who hope that the nations will establish between themselves relations based on equality.'

In every locality and State the most eminent and influential signatories of the Appeal will set up Sponsoring Committees for the Assembly.

The Mexican Council for Peace and Security is also making sure that there will be wide public support for the financing of the Assembly and a Finance Committee has been set up to this end. One of the first things it did was to set up 'posadas de la paz' or 'peace stands' which, in addition to bringing in money, did useful publicity work. The committee is also planning to send round films with a bearing on peace.

Cuban People Discuss Programme for a Peaceful Foreign Policy

The Cuban Peace Movement has drawn up a 'Programme for a Peaceful Foreign Policy'. This document defines the basic features of such a policy in 21 points and has been widely distributed and submitted for the approval of the people at many public meetings, gatherings and debates. The discussion of the programme at every level will be rounded off by a National Assembly at which the results of this popular discussion will be brought out.

Here are a few brief extracts from the main points of the programme:

'3. The Republic of Cuba shall declare itself opposed to interference by any country in the internal affairs of another . . .

'6. The Republic will support all moves in favour of negotiation at the United Nations and elsewhere . . .

'9. The Republic of Cuba will stress . . . the urgent need to ban the use of atomic, thermo-nuclear, bacteriological and all other weapons of mass destruction . . .

'10. The Republic of Cuba will not be able to join military pacts which commit the lives of its sons to undertakings contrary to the people's interests and to the national defence . . .

'11. Cuba's representatives in international organisations and especially in the United Nations will support all moves towards disarmament . . .

'12. The Republic of Cuba will follow a policy of intensive and extensive economic exchanges without discrimination of any kind . . .

'18. The Republic of Cuba must favour and develop a policy of intensive cultural exchanges . . .'

Rosario Doctors Publish Booklet on Banning of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The doctors of Rosario have just published a booklet expressing their anxiety at the danger to mankind involved in the testing of atomic weapons and their possible use as an instrument of aggression. Two of the town's doctors present the booklet in two brief explanatory notes. It contains many photographs showing the destruction wreaked on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their populations by the atomic bomb, and also details on the destructive effects of these bombs, together with the opinions of representative Argentinians and newspapers supporting the campaign.

The Peace Movement of the province of Buenos Aires has also expressed the urgency of mobilising the people to obtain the banning of nuclear weapons. The appeal asks the people to demand that the Argentine Government intervene in the United Nations for the banning of weapons of mass destruction.

Argentina Protects Oil from Foreign Take-over

Argentina's oil industry is under threat of being taken over by foreign monopolies. Against this, a group of well-known persons, including leaders of the Argentine Peace Movement, have issued an appeal for a campaign of petitions.

The appeal first of all points out that 'Argentina's oil, in the hands of the Argentine people, is indispensable for economic, industrial and technical development and guarantees the national defence'. It stresses that the foreign monopolies want to take over the oil industry to serve their war policy and concludes:

'The signatories express their strong opposition to any oil concessions and . . . demand that all Argentina's oil should remain in the possession of the Argentine people . . . and be used for a policy of national independence, progress and peace.'

There were various demonstrations for the protection of Argentina's oil on December 13, proclaimed 'Oil Day'.

✶

BRAZIL

The Legislative Assembly of the State of Sao Paulo has adopted a proposal to renew relations with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies made by Mr. Cid Franco, member of parliament.

Mr. Mario Brandao Pimentel, former Brazilian ambassador to the Soviet Union, has stated that he considered this to be an opportune moment for the resumption of relations with the Soviet Union. He noted that the Soviet Union is exporting goods that Brazil urgently needs.

Present Tasks of Chilean Peace Movement

The Chilean Peace Council held a session in Santiago on December 11th and 12th. Mr. Juan Acevedo M. P. presented a report entitled: 'The forthcoming World Assembly of Representatives of the Forces of Peace and Chile's participation in it'. It calls on the Chilean people to send representatives of all their active forces as delegates to the Assembly.

Reports on the tasks of the Movement were presented.

According to the resolutions adopted, the Chilean Peace Council proposes to organise wider and wider activity:

1. Against the decisions of the Rio de Janeiro Conference which hinder the economic development of the country.

2. To condemn the United States-Chile bilateral military pact.

3. To defend the national sovereignty at all points.

4. For free trade with all countries.

On this latter point, the Chilean Peace Council will approach all bodies and the representatives of all sectors of opinion who put forward this solution of the crisis in Chile.

The Chilean Movement demands that the prospecting of strategic minerals, especially radioactive minerals, should be supervised and warns of the danger of H bomb tests in the Antarctic or in Chilean territorial waters, as certain items of information would seem to indicate.

Referring to Latin American affairs in general, the Chilean Movement condemns the policy of military blocs and urges the holding of an economic conference like that which brought together public figures and members of parliament at Santiago de Chile in July 1954.

In conclusion, the Movement declares its support for the world campaign for the banning of weapons of mass destruction and for the negotiated settlement of international differences.

Active Preparations for Commemoration of Cultural Anniversaries in 1955

Wide interest has been shown in the World Council's invitation to commemorate the following six great figures of world culture in 1955:

SCHILLER	—	150th anniversary of his death
MONTESQUIEU	—	200th anniversary of his death
MICKIEWICZ	—	100th anniversary of his death
ANDERSEN	—	150th anniversary of his birth
CERVANTES	—	350th anniversary of the publication of *Don Quixote*
WHITMAN	—	100th anniversary of the publication of *Leaves of Grass*

Moreover, the Cultural Commission proposed to collaborate with the All India Peace Council in the celebration of the 1500th anniversary of the magnificent frescoes in the Ajanta caves.

In a number of countries memorial events are in preparation. They are being given a form that will win popular support and the participation of many intellectuals of various backgrounds. In the near future we shall be giving in these pages the plans drawn up by a number of National Peace Committees.

Among the ideas that it is proposed to implement, we may mention one put forward by intellectuals in certain countries and by cultural and popular organisations. It is that messages of greetings and support should be sent to representative organisations of the nations to which the great figures celebrated in 1955 belong. This, and other similar measures, will certainly strengthen friendly relations between the countries and facilitate the establishment of closer and more cordial links.

The Peace Committees of Germany and Poland have decided to invite foreign intellectuals to the events that will take place in their countries, while the German intellectuals are prepared to go to countries where Schiller and Mickiewicz are being commemorated. The Peace Committees of Latin America are preparing to collaborate with the Spanish Peace Committee in the commemoration of Cervantes and Don Quixote so that this anniversary may be celebrated on as wide a scale as possible. They are also planning various events to honour the work of Walt Whitman who will be specially commemorated in the United States where the American Peace Crusade is making active preparations. In Czechoslovakia, a programme has been worked out for the commemoration of Andersen's anniversary. In implementing it the Peace Movement will have the collaboration of the Ministry of Culture, the State Publishing House, the Publishing House for Children's Books, the State Cinematograph Society, the Committee for the Defence of Children, the Children's and Puppet Theatres, both professional and amateur, and so on. The programme includes puppet films and cartoons based on Andersen's tales; a memorial evening with readings from his works and films; an open air evening gala for children in the Julius Fucik Park of Culture and Leisure; many theatrical and puppet presentations; an exhibition of the various editions of Andersen's tales, illustrations done by the best Czech artists and decors for several of the tales, 'The Nightingale and the Emperor', for example. In the towns and districts many events will be organised by the schools, parent-teachers' associations, houses of popular education, amateur groups and various clubs.

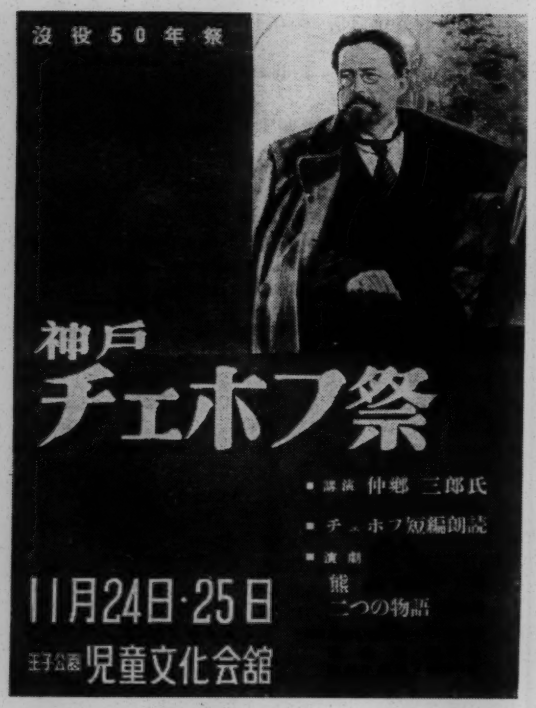
The Anniversaries in 1954

JAPAN

In Japan, many meetings in honour of Aristophanes, Fielding, Dvorak and Chekhov were held in 1954.

The 'Geizyutseza' drama group performed Aristophanes' comedy 'Lysistrata' in Tokyo for a month in the Spring, then at the Peace Festival held during the month of August in Kansai district, where they played to an audience of 40,000.

Chekhov's plays were performed many times in almost all the big cities of Japan. In Kobe, for example, cultural groups, trade union organisations and so on jointly organised public meetings at which the anniversary of Chekhov's death was commemorated by lectures on his life and work, readings of some of his short stories and the presentation of a number of his comedies, 'The Bear', 'Corporal Prishibieieff' and others.



A poster announcing the Kobe memorial meetings.

HUNGARY

In collaboration with the Hungarian Writers' Association, the Cultural Commission of the Hungarian Peace Council has organised a Henry Fielding memorial meeting in Budapest. The evening's programme included a lecture by Professor Joszef Sziget on the significance of the great English novelist's work and the reading of extracts from *Tom Jones* and *Jonathan Wild*. The meeting was attended by literary figures and members of the British Embassy.

The students and professors of the Advanced School for Foreign Languages also held a memorial meeting in honour of Fielding.

BULGARIA

In Bulgaria, Fielding's anniversary was commemorated by the publication of many articles in the press, by broadcasts, and by lectures in Sofia and the provinces at which extracts from Fielding's novels were read and music by English composers was played.

HOLLAND

In Holland, the anniversary of Chekhov's death was commemorated at a meeting organised by the Amsterdam Actors' Association in the Stadsschouwburg Theatre in that city. They gave a performance of Chekhov's play *Three Sisters* to a packed house. The guests included the Soviet Ambassador to Holland and a group of Dutch scientists who had just visited the Soviet Union.

For the 50th anniversary of the death of Antonin Dvorak, Dr. Peter van Anrooy, conductor, member of the Dutch Peace Council, gave a week of broadcast talks illustrated with records on the work of Dvorak and Smetana.

POLAND

In Poland, many cultural, social and political organisations and associations have taken part in a great movement to popularise the works of Chekhov and Dvorak. They include the Polish Writers' Association, the Composers' Association, organisations of women and young people, the 'Popular Science' Association, the press and the publishing houses.

In town and village the Houses of Culture and clubs have held many concerts, lectures and exhibitions which have aroused great interest.

The complete works of Chekhov and scores by Dvorak have been published.

In the capital memorial meetings have been held. There was one in honour of Antonin Dvorak at which the Czech composer Vaclav Dobias was present and the Czech violonist A. Plocek gave a recital. Another in honour of Anton Chekhov was attended by Professor Anissimov of the Soviet Union.

Arab Writers Take a Stand

in Defence of National Cultures and of Peace

Arab intellectuals have often expressed their intention to meet and decide on the best way of developing their nationa cultures and of opposing all that hinders or sidetracks this development. They also want to express their solidarity with their people's struggle for the maintenance of their sovereignty and for world peace. With a view to organising such a gathering a meeting attended by representatives from Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq was held on the initiative of the Syrian Writer's Association, and it decided to call a Conference of Arab writers. The Conference took place in Damascus last September at the headquarters of the Syrian Fine Arts Society, with very satisfactory results.

A number of the most eminent intellectuals of Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Bahrein, of widely differing political and philosophical opinions took part in the Conference, including the poets Wasfi Krunfli, Abu Salma, Nassuh Fakhori, Sheikh Abdullah Alaili, Salah Zeinim Hassib Kayali, Shaker Mustafa, Marun Abbud, Ahmed Aref Zein, Hussein Mrooé, and Mahimed Itani. The Syrian Prime Minister, Mr. Saida Gazzi, sent greetings to the conference, and Mr. Alexei Surkov and Mr. Boris Polevoi sent a message of friendship on behalf of Soviet writers. Messages of greetings were also received from the Argentine Cultural Congress and from other organisations and persons in various countries.

The Conference took the decision to create the Arab Writers' Association, the motto of which is 'free thought and a happy life'. It replaces both the Syrian Writers' Association and the Lebanese League of the Mountain, which have been dissolved. In the near future this Association will have national sections in each of the Arab countries.

The Conference adopted a number of important resolutions: on the struggle against illiteracy; on universal and free primary education; against the restrictions on secondary education; for the entry of poor students into the Arab universities and faculties for higher studies; for the improvement of the living conditions of masters and professors; and for the removal from school books of all that is opposed to patriotic and scientific principles and to friendship between the peoples.

The Conference also resolved to revive the literary and artistic traditions of the Arab countries, to push forward the translation of foreign progressive works into Arabic and of the best Arab books into other languages. It recommended writers to do all they could to strengthen the national resistance of the Arab countries to foreign interference and to the efforts to enlist them in unjust wars; to struggle against the obscurantism spread by certain powers and which creates an anti-national attitude through the medium of books, films and foreign schools; to defend democratic freedoms; to broaden exchanges with progressive culture the world over; and to strive to avert the horrors of an imperialist war from the Arab countries. In order to perform these tasks successfully, the Conference called on all Arab countries to join their efforts to those of all honest men and women throughout the world for the consolidation of world peace.

The Arab Writers' Conference ended with a great literary festival at which poets and writers read extracts from their works.

Arab Writers' Week

Another meeting, lasting a week, was held on the invitation of the Lebanese Writers' Association. It adopted resolutions which have a certain similarity to those of the Damascus Conference. They deal mainly with the struggle for free thought and human dignity and against foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Arab countries.

The Soviet Writers' Congress, held in Moscow from December 15 to 26, with many foreign guests present, was an important cultural event. In the words of one of the resolutions adopted: 'Congress welcomes and supports the proposal to call a World Congress of Writers in 1955, widely representative of men of letters of all countries and bringing them together on a platform of peace and culture.'

Nine Personalities of the Peace Movement Receive the Stalin International Peace Prize

Nine famous figures of the World Peace Movement have just received the high distinction of a Stalin International Prize for the Consolidation of Peace between the Peoples. They are:

Mr. Denis Noel Pritt Q. C., President of the British Peace Committee.

Mr. Alain Le Léap (France), member of the Presiding Committee of the French Peace Movement.

Mr. Thakin Kodaw Hmaing (Burma), writer, President of the All Burma Committee of the World Peace Congress.

Mr. Bertold Brecht (Germany), poet and dramatist.

Professor Felix Iversen (Finland), professor at Helsinki University.

Professor André Bonnard (Switzerland), professor at Lausanne University; President of the Swiss Peace Movement.

Professor Baldomero Sanin Cano (Colombia), Doctor honoris causa of Edinburgh and Bogota Universities; President of the Colombian Peace Council.

Professor Prijono (Indonesia), Dean of the Arts Faculty of the State University of Djakarta; Vice-President of the Indonesian Peace Committee.

Mr. Nicolas Guillen (Cuba), poet.

*

FIRST CONTINENTAL EXHIBITION OF ETCHINGS AND DRAWINGS FOR PEACE ABOUT TO OPEN IN AMERICA

The Argentine Committee of Plastic Arts for Peace has just invited American artists to take part in the 'First Continental Exhibition of Etchings and Drawings for Peace' which will be held in Buenos Aires.

The Organising Committee is composed of well-known artists, winners of various national and international prizes, such as D. Urruchua, A. Vigo, L. Falcini, C. Giambiagi, A. Berni, W. Melgarejo Munoz, E. Policastro, J. C. Castagnino, C. Biscione and A. Devoto. The rules lay down that the sole theme is peace or the rejection of war, but there is complete freedom of interpretation. Works making either a real or symbolical allusion to the internal or foreign policy of any government will not be accepted. After the opening in Buenos Aires the exhibition will be presented in the main cities of America. In its appeal to artists the Organising Committee states that the exhibition will be a 'demonstration of solidarity towards the universal movement for peace, especially at this time when warlike forces are seeking to unleash wars of extermination and enslavement and are hindering the free development of culture. This leads to the banning of artistic creation. In this situation art, which is fed by, and has its roots in, the life of the people, truth and peace, cannot refrain from expressing the people's anxiety and from making its message of protest and brotherhood heard. The First Continental Exhibition of Etchings and Drawings for Peace will therefore have a profound significance, for it will help to preserve the sources of cultural riches and to foster the free development of artistic expression. It will promote cultural exchanges between the peoples of America on the one hand, and between them and the rest of the world on the other.'

CHARLES CHAPLIN:

'May 1955 Bring Peace throughout the World!'

'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; and may the ensuing year bring peace and security throughout to the world.' This was the message recently sent by Charlie Chaplin to an old age pensioners' party in the Borough of Lambeth in London. The party was organised out of a gift of £ 2,000 Chaplin made to the Borough Council of Lambeth, where he spent his childhood. The money was part of his International Peace Prize.

The N.A.T.O. Decisions to use Atomic Weapons as Described in the British and American Press

The Times, 18 December 1954:

'General Gruenther is understood to have ... requested formal agreement to military planning on the basis that nuclear weapons would be used. It was apparently agreed that the military planning should be conducted on this basis and that it should make the most efficient use of nuclear and other weapons ...

'As nuclear weapons become more readily available the day approaches when they will be necessary and normal for all N.A.T.O. forces ... The decision to plan on this basis seems, therefore, to bring nearer a decision to distribute such weapons to N.A.T.O. countries which do not at present possess them — for instance to Germany once she has become a N.A.T.O. member ...

'There is now general agreement that military units and formations will have to be on a smaller, more highly trained scale and that they must be highly mobile, so that troops can be transported over positions contaminated in a nuclear war to seize or hold key points in uncontaminated areas.'

The Manchester Guardian, 18 December 1954:

'Thus the council has tacitly agreed that the military commanders can count on being allowed to use their atomic weapons in defence and the whole military organisation is to be recast on that basis ...

'The North Atlantic Council has accepted the thesis ... that we are already "beyond the point of no return" with atomic weapons. It has accepted the view that our forces are bound to use atomic weapons against any major attack but has retained for civilians the power to decide what constitutes a major attack.

'The decision does not of course affect the independence of the United States and Great Britain to decide on the use of their long range bomber forces, which do not come under N.A.T.O. control.'

The Times, 20 December 1954:

'Commenting on this decision, Mr. Spaak said that it met exactly the wishes of the military, by authorising them to prepare for atomic war, but kept in civil hands the responsibility for deciding on the use of the atomic weapons.'

Press Interview of Mr. Foster Dulles reported in The Times, 22 December 1954:

'He explained that current military policies would gradually involve the use of atomic weapons for tactical purposes, in the same way that gunpowder had displaced the crossbow ...

'The issue of whether or not to use weapons of mass destruction arose in any war and, he suggested, did not involve a distinction between the destructive power of atomic weapons and that of old ones.'

The New York Times, 18 December 1954:

'Mr. Anderson (Robert B. Anderson, Deputy Secretary of Defence) declared that military aid by the United States to its allies would be continued at "about current levels" and that both weapons and the training thus supplied would be "reoriented" to meet the needs revealed by studies of "the new concepts of warfare".'

New York Herald Tribune, 18 December 1954:

(Report by Don Cook)

'The United States position is basically: "We will consult if there is time and it seems necessary, but we will not have our hands tied." In any case the military planners have their clear directive, and the rest of the problem can only be decided by time or events.'

Arguments Designed to Confuse the People

'The decision whether to use atomic weapons has been left in the hands of the civilians.'

*

The aim of this argument is to confuse the issue and to gain acceptance of the idea that the use of atomic weapons is admissable. In fact the military plans are to be *based* on the use of atomic weapons. The military organisation is to be recast so that eventually the only way it will be capable of fighting will be by using atomic weapons. Thus the carrying out of these decisions will mean that if another war does start it will inevitably be atomic war. Furthermore these decisions, if applied, would make almost impossible any further negotiation on the banning or non-utilisation of atomic weapons. One of the aims of all the fuss that has been made about whether the politicans or the generals should decide has been precisely to distract attention from this principal question — that nuclear weapons must not be used at all, that experiments must be banned and that eventually all nuclear weapons must be forbidden with measures of strict international inspection and control.

'It is only tactical weapons that are involved.'

*

It sounds so simple. And, in fact, this argument has had a certain success. 'Tactical' weapons sound so innocent and permissible. The aim of the argument is to disarm the opposition and win admittance for the principle of using nuclear weapons. These arms are 'tactical' only in the sense that they are comparatively easy to move about and do not need to be carried in long range strategic bombers as, at present, the hydrogen bomb does. The smallest atomic missile among these weapons has an explosive power of 12 or more 'blockbusters' of the last war, with, in addition, dangerous radiation effects. The rockets and guided missiles can be equipped with warheads of the power and effect of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Once such weapons are used atomic war has begun. The only defence is to stop them being used.

'There is not much point in developing new weapons unless we incorporate them in our armed forces and adapt our armed forces accordingly.' (*The Manchester Guardian:* Editorial, 20 December, 1954.)

*

Once again the aim is to avoid the real question. It is assumed that atomic weapons are essential to 'defence' and must be produced. That the existence of these weapons is a threat to civilisation, that experiments with them threaten the continuance of life on this planet, are already having unpredictable effects on animal and vegetable organisms and on the atmosphere — these facts are ignored. The dilemma is very simply solved. Universal agreement not to make these arms, to forbid experiments, to forbid their use, would make it unnecessary to incorporate them in the armed forces.

Reproduction authorised

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstraße 4/6. — Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Ungar, Wien XXII, Kraygasse 48. — Druck Globus II, Wien VI, Gumpendorferstraße 40—44.

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

Supplement to N° 2 (2nd. Year) January 15, 1955

Table of Contents

— 1954 —

In order to facilitate research by readers of the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace we give below a table of the main reports and documents published during 1954. Only items of permanent interest are noted and they are presented under three headings:

— International meetings, conferences and congresses of the Peace Movement or in which it was associated.

— Conferences and congresses of the National Peace Movements.

— Sessions of the World Council of Peace and the texts adopted by its various bodies.

International Meetings, Conferences and Congresses

Conference in Defence of the Rights of the Peoples of the Middle East ..... No 5 — January

Conference of Members of Parliament and Public Figures of the Six Countries affected by E.D.C. ..... Nos 7 and 8 — March

Peking Meeting of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions .. No 11 — May

Meeting for the Relaxation of International Tension (Stockholm, June 19—23, 1954)... Nos 13 and 14 — July

Conference of Members of Parliament and Public Figures of Latin America ..... No 15 — August

European Conference for Negotiation on the German Question ..... No 1 (2nd. Year) — January 1, 1955

National Conferences and Congresses

Congress of the Japanese Peace Movement ..... No 5 — January

National Conference of the Swedish Peace Committee... No 5 — January

Appeal of the Preparatory Committee for the Indonesian National Peace Congress .... No 5 — January

Dutch Congress for Vigilance against German Militarism .. No 6 — February

Canadian National Congress for the Defence of Peace through Negotiation ..... No 6 — February

First Indonesian Peace Congress Nos 6 — February and 7 — March

Japanese National Congress for the Defence of the Peaceful Constitution..... No 7 — March

Austrian National Peace Conference ..... No 8 — March

Congress of Brazilian Intellectuals ..... No 8 — March

Emergency Peace Conference in London ..... No 9 — April

Argentine Cultural Congress ... No 10 — May

Indian National Conference against the United States-Pakistan Pact and for the Relaxation of International Tension..... Nos 11 — May and 13 — July

National Demonstration for Independence and Peace in France ..... Nos 12 — June and 13 — July

Danish Peace Conference ..... No 13 — July

Congress for Peace and the German People's Right to Self-determination ..... No 14 — July

Second Congress of the Syrian Peace Movement ..... No 14 — July

First National Peace Conference in Iraq ..... No 16 — August

New Zealand Convention on International Relations..... Nos 20 — October 15 and 21 — November 1

All India Peasants' Congress supports the Peace Movement No 21 — November 1

British Congress for World Security ..... No 22 — November 15

World Council of Peace

Message from the World Council of Peace to Organisations and Personalities desiring a Relaxation of International Tension ..... No 5 — January

Texts adopted by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace (Vienna, March 28—30, 1954 No 9 — April

Celebration in Vienna of the Fifth Anniversary of the Peace Movement ..... No 10 — May

Extraordinary Session in Berlin (May 24—28, 1954) ..... No 12 — June

Message from the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace to the Vietnamese Committee for the Defence of World Peace on the occasion of the armistice in Viet Nam ..... No 15 — August

Message from the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace to the National Council of the French Peace Movement .... No 15 — August

Message from the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace to the Japanese Peace Committee on the Ninth Anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima ..... No 16 — August

Statement by Professor Joliot-Curie, President of the World Council of Peace, on the occasion of the rejection of E.D.C. No 18 — September 15

Message from the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace to the French Peace Movement No 19 — October 1

Statement by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace (Vienna, September 13—15, 1954) .... No 19 — October 1

Warning from the President of the World Council of Peace on the London and Paris Agreements ..... No 22 — November 15

Stockholm Session (November 18—23, 1954) ..... Nos 23-24 — Dec. 15

Recommendation of the Cultural Commission of the World Council of Peace for the celebration of the anniversary of the Ajanta frescoes ..... No 1 (2nd. Year) January 1, 1955

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstraße 4/6. — Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Ungar, Wien XXII, Kraygasse 48. — Druck Globus II, Wien VI, Gumpendorferstraße 40—44.

BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

Vienna Session, January 17th - 19th
1 9 5 5

Documents adopted by the closing public session on January 19th 1955 :

- Appeal against the preparations for atomic war.
- Declaration of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace.
- Appeal to the peoples of Europe.

APPEAL AGAINST THE PREPARATIONS FOR ATOMIC WAR

—— oo O oo——

Today, certain governments are preparing to let loose atomic war.

They are trying to make the peoples accept it as inevitable.

The use of atomic weapons would result in a war of extermination.

We declare that any government that lets loose atomic war will forfeit the trust of its people and find itself condemned by every people of the world.

Now and in the future, we shall oppose those who organise atomic war.

We demand the destruction of all stocks of atomic weapons wherever they may be and the immediate stopping of their manufacture.

Vienna, January 19, 1955

DECLARATION OF THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

At the outset of 1955, two threats to the peace of the world have become definite : the remilitarisation of Germany and the steps taken to prepare and justify atomic war. These threats come just at the moment when new prospects of peace are opening before the peoples. It is now a matter of the acts of responsible governments, and no longer only the declarations of politicians and generals.

These acts deliberately flout the desires of the peoples concerned and world opinion.

The remilitarisation of Germany, and the obstacles placed by SEATO in the way of a peaceful solution of the problems of Asia, underline the exceptional gravity of the measures adopted by the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

These measures are designed to regularise atomic war, which has been condemned by the conscience of mankind and is contrary to international law, and persuade public opinion to accept it as a necessity. They can lead to the automatic unleashing of atomic war in Asia as well as in Europe. From now on, they threaten with this peril every country on every continent.

The remilitarisation of Germany and the regularisation of atomic war are closely linked. They are the fruits of a single policy founded on the division of the world into two blocs, the drive for positions of strength and recourse to war in prosecuting international differences.

The peoples know from experience that this policy can lead only to economic chaos, poverty and war. The World Peace Movement calls upon them to appreciate the magnitude of the new dangers and to avert them by all means in their power.

The concerted action of the peoples can end the policy of blocs. It can oblige the governments to negotiate, to disarm and to use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes.

Mankind will not passively allow itself to be led toward the disasters of atomic war.

The problem is not to calculate at what staff or government level atomic war may be decided on, or to draw distinctions between so-called tactical and strategic weapons. The task is to reject the destruction, oppression and suffering that it entails, to ensure to all the peoples of the world their independence and the right to develop their own wealth, and take together the path towards security and prosperity.

It is to fulfil this task that the appeal to maintain the struggle against the remilitarisation of Germany and the appeal to organise a great signature campaign to stop the use of atomic weapons have been issued.

It is to this same end that the call has been issued for a great World Assembly that on May 22nd, 1955, in Helsinki shall bring together representatives of all tendencies and organisations for peace.

Vienna, January 19, 1955

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE

The peoples of Europe refuse to accept the Wehrmacht.

They oppose the revival - a bare ten years after the end of the war - of the army which brought death and destruction down upon all Europe.

They are revolted by the idea that atomic weapons should be put at the disposal of Hitler's former generals.

The peoples will never accept this crime.

The ratification of the Wehrmacht treaties is far from being achieved.

In London and Paris, when the parliaments voted on the ratification, not even one half the members supported them. The governments, like the parliaments, have been obliged openly to acknowledge the hostility of the peoples concerned. But they are resolved to override the opposition of the peoples of Europe, and in particular the growing opposition of the German people themselves.

The peoples cannot be bound by decisions adopted by parliaments against their will.

Today, the governments that signed the London and Paris agreements can no longer cover up the tragic consequences of the creation of a new Wehrmacht : the remilitarisation of Western Germany would result in the setting up of armed forces in Eastern Germany. It would speed up the arms race. It would make the peaceful reunification of Germany impossible for years to come and would prevent any possibility of the collective organisation of European security.

The World Council of Peace calls on the men and women of every country to put all their strength, all their determination and all their courage into preventing the ratification and implementation of the London and Paris agreements.

It calls on all the men and women who have been waging such a magnificent struggle against the rearmament of Germany, and on all those also who are today becoming aware of the imminent danger which it involves, to join and multiply their efforts to oppose the revival of German militarism and to organise the security of Europe with participation of a peace-loving Germany.

Europe, supported by all the peoples of the world, will not let a new Wehrmacht be thrust upon her.

Vienna, January 19, 1955

January 31, 1955

M. Jean Laffitte
World Peace Council
Estate-Haus
Mollwald-Platz 5
Vienna 4, Austria

Dear M. Laffitte:

On January 26, General Mac Arthur, celebrating his seventy-fifth birthday at Los Angeles, made the speech which, as reported by the HEARLD TRIBUNE, is enclosed.

This is the first time that a great American military leader has denounced war. I write to suggest that this speech be translated into all modern languages and distributed over the world.

Very sincerely yours,

W.E.B. Du Bois

DB:lh

87-16-15